

106TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 3433

To amend the Public Health Service Act to authorize the Director of the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences to make grants for the development and operation of research centers regarding environmental factors that may be related to the etiology of breast cancer.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

NOVEMBER 17, 1999

Mrs. LOWEY introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Commerce

A BILL

To amend the Public Health Service Act to authorize the Director of the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences to make grants for the development and operation of research centers regarding environmental factors that may be related to the etiology of breast cancer.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Breast Cancer and
5 Environmental Research Act of 1999”.

1 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

2 The Congress finds as follows:

3 (1) Breast cancer is the second leading cause of
4 cancer deaths among American women.

5 (2) In 1999, 175,000 women will be diagnosed
6 with breast cancer, and more than 43,000 are ex-
7 pected to die from this disease.

8 (3) A large proportion of breast cancer cases
9 cannot be attributed to known risk factors. Three of
10 four cases of breast cancer arise in women with no
11 known risk factors.

12 (4) The National Action Plan on Breast Can-
13 cer, a public private partnership, has recognized the
14 importance of expanding the scope and breadth of
15 biomedical, epidemiological, and behavioral research
16 activities related to the etiology of breast cancer and
17 the role of the environment.

18 (5) Environmental factors, such as exposure to
19 ionizing radiation, have been shown to cause cancer
20 by reacting with a gene's DNA and causing a muta-
21 tion.

22 (6) Physical activity, including diet and the role
23 of exercise, have emerged as factors in the under-
24 standing in the development of cancers, including
25 breast cancer.

1 (7) The role of viruses, low-level radiation,
 2 chemicals, electromagnetic fields and light-at-night
 3 and gene-environment interactions may also provide
 4 clues to understanding the etiology of breast cancer.

5 (8) To date, there has been only a limited re-
 6 search investment to expand the scope or coordinate
 7 efforts across disciplines or work with the commu-
 8 nity to study the role of the environment in the de-
 9 velopment of breast cancer.

10 (9) In order to take full advantage of the tre-
 11 mendous potential for avenues of prevention, the
 12 Federal investment in the role of the environment
 13 and the development of breast cancer should be ex-
 14 panded.

15 **SEC. 3. NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF ENVIRONMENTAL**
 16 **HEALTH SCIENCES; AWARDS FOR DEVELOP-**
 17 **MENT AND OPERATION OF RESEARCH CEN-**
 18 **TERS REGARDING ENVIRONMENTAL FAC-**
 19 **TORS RELATED TO BREAST CANCER.**

20 Subpart 12 of part C of title IV of the Public Health
 21 Service Act (42 U.S.C. 285L et seq.) is amended by adding
 22 at the end the following section:

23 “RESEARCH CENTERS REGARDING ENVIRONMENTAL
 24 FACTORS RELATED TO BREAST CANCER

25 “SEC. 463B. (a) IN GENERAL.—The Director of the
 26 Institute, after consultation with the advisory council for

1 the Institute, shall make grants to public or nonprofit pri-
2 vate entities for the development and operation of not
3 more than eight centers for the purpose of conducting
4 multidisciplinary research on environmental factors that
5 may be related to the etiology of breast cancer. Each such
6 center shall be known as a Breast Cancer and Environ-
7 mental Research Center of Excellence.

8 “(b) RESEARCH, TRAINING, AND INFORMATION AND
9 EDUCATION.—

10 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Each center under sub-
11 section (a) shall, with respect to the purpose de-
12 scribed in such subsection—

13 “(A) conduct basic and clinical research;

14 “(B) develop protocols for training physi-
15 cians, scientists, nurses, and other health and
16 allied health professionals;

17 “(C) conduct training programs for such
18 individuals;

19 “(D) develop model continuing education
20 programs for such professionals; and

21 “(E) disseminate information to such pro-
22 fessionals and the public.

23 “(2) STIPENDS FOR TRAINING OF HEALTH PRO-
24 FESSIONALS.—A center under subsection (a) may
25 use funds under such subsection to provide stipends

1 for health and allied health professionals enrolled in
2 programs described in subparagraph (C) of para-
3 graph (1).

4 “(c) COLLABORATION WITH COMMUNITY.—Each
5 center under subsection (a) shall establish and maintain
6 ongoing collaborations with community organizations in
7 the geographic area served by the center, including those
8 that represent women with breast cancer.

9 “(d) COORDINATION OF CENTERS; REPORTS.—The
10 Director of the Institute shall, as appropriate, provide for
11 the coordination of information among centers under sub-
12 section (a) and ensure regular communication between
13 such centers, and may require the periodic preparation of
14 reports on the activities of the centers and the submission
15 of the reports to the Director.

16 “(e) REQUIRED CONSORTIUM.—Each center under
17 subsection (a) shall be formed from a consortium of co-
18 operating institutions, meeting such requirements as may
19 be prescribed by the Director of the Institute.

20 “(f) DURATION OF SUPPORT.—Support of a center
21 under subsection (a) may be for a period not exceeding
22 5 years. Such period may be extended for one or more
23 additional periods not exceeding 5 years if the operations
24 of such center have been reviewed by an appropriate tech-
25 nical and scientific peer review group established by the

1 Director of the Institute and if such group has rec-
2 ommended to the Director that such period should be ex-
3 tended.

4 “(g) GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION OF CENTERS.—
5 The Director of the Institute shall, to the extent prac-
6 ticable, provide for an equitable geographical distribution
7 of centers under this section.

8 “(h) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—For the
9 purpose of carrying out this section, there is authorized
10 to be appropriated \$30,000,000 for each of the fiscal years
11 2000 through 2005. Such authorization is in addition to
12 any other authorization of appropriations that is available
13 for such purpose.”.

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